

alfalfa, prairie and timothy hay, etc., which is another story.

The correspondent has hit exactly the idea we have always advocated—that of farmers co-operating in the purchase and ownership of shredding or silo machinery.

The old thrasher plan is the thing. It is growing in favor and no man who ever tries saving his fodder (90 per cent of the crop goes back to the old wasteful method of leaving fodder in field or even throwing armfuls down to be picked over and fifty per cent rejected. The silo is essentially a grass-eating animal and when you ask him to eat coarse forage you simply furnish him an auxiliary set of teeth when you shred, thus enabling him to eat all with a smaller expenditure of energy. The shredder is an assistant masticator and a money maker. The senior editor of this paper owns and uses a shredder and finds it O. K.

The only cases where we know of the shredding of dry fodder being abandoned are where it is followed by the substitution of the silo. On this point we refer Mr. Stevens and others interested in a year or two feeding to our editorial on "Silos and Silage" in RURAL WORLD for Oct. 12, and then to the three representative cattle feeders mentioned therein. Mr. Jones is a beef grower, Mr. Cobb (Buff Jersey) is a butter dairyman, and Mr. Parsons is a "milk" dairyman, and all are not only successful, but are in the forefront of the profession. No better testimony on this subject could be added to prove that the "world is moving" and that the courageous, keen-eyed business man is not only helping it move, but he's pulling it forward, not pushing from the rear.

It is too late this year to make ensilage, but the same machinery used this fall for shredding or cutting corn fodder could be used in filling the silo next season. The silage silo can be built at small cost. In these days of scarce and uncertain help, the item of labor saving in feeding alone pays for the creation of stock. Bale or cover shredded fodder; you cannot stack it successfully.

THE USE OF MUCK.

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"The muck on the farm is decayed vegetation deposited in pond holes, which are a drouth. There is no outlet and apparently no inlet water. One field has been sown with buckwheat for two years in succession. Last year yield was fair—this year extra good. After the buckwheat was gathered blue grass came up and there is a good sod. Four years ago another field was sown to buckwheat and the next summer a crop of blue grass came up without seeding and a good crop of hay was gathered, but the following year there was nothing but weeds.

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After reviewing the reason of the failure of muck to sustain the hopes of the thousands that have in the past tested it in the east, I concluded that its high content of organic matter and nitrogen might be much available by replacing the phosphoric acid and potash lost by it under water by adding something like 15 pounds of muriate of potash and 15 pounds of plain phosphate, 25 pounds of it in the east. I drew the muck out in the winter and broadcast it on the ground, where the air may sweeten it, and then in the spring broadcast the mineral fertilizers. I use twelve tons or six to eight heavy loads per acre, preferring light and frequent application to large and infrequent ones.

The use of plain phosphate was advised in lieu of acid phosphate, as the acid in the former costs only one-half as much as in the latter. But if the soil is a light

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## HORTICULTURAL TALKS.

branch had leaned over the back part of the low roof and was cut off the year before. The tree had also borne very heavily from the time it was first known by

cutting off all the roots to within an inch or so of the stem. That may do well in Texas; but the old rule, "the more good roots the better," has worked admirably

vines must be taken down from the trellis, pruned, laid down and covered for the winter. The Eastern vinyardist can

the cold weather, will do very much toward giving the soil better moisture relations the next spring, tending to secure

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machu-

pounds in the hive. Fifteen or twenty pounds of honey may be so scattered about in the hive that the bees are unable to reach it in cold weather, and thus starve or become so weakened that they become diseased or affected, which leads to losses, when otherwise this would not be the case. The most sure method of successful wintering of bees is a hive full of good stores, with plenty of honey surrounding the cluster of bees, and in easy reach of them during cold weather when they cannot stir about in the hive. Fifteen or twenty pounds of honey in the hive at the beginning of winter is not

of any great value, because by fall feeding they can be brought up to fairly strong colonies before winter, but it is not usual for the workers to begin to kill the drones until the queen cells are no longer in the hive. We have not had an opportunity of watching the bees this year, and if we had we might not have noticed any such phenomena as the correspondent of the "Sun" describes, because we should not have been looking for it. If he says he knows it, his testimony should have more weight than ours when we say we doubt it, but we will

wait until we receive corroborative evidence from other sources before we accept his statement as correct.—Massachusetts Flöwman.

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